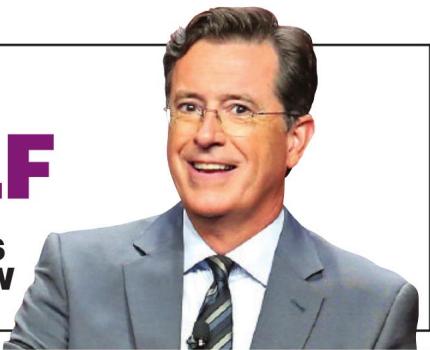


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'COMPROMISED'

ALLEGED SCENE OF SAMSON SLAYING 'PAINTED OVER': LAWYER
metroNEWS

Dalhousie and mall plots not similar: Police

CRIME

Shopping centre case involved plan for specific time and place



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

An alleged threat to kill up to 20 people made by a former Dalhousie medical student is continuing to be investigated.

However, a police spokeswoman clarified the case differs from an earlier alleged plot by three suspects to open fire inside the Halifax Shopping Centre on Valentine's Day.

"The situation is different because the conspiracy, with respect to the Halifax Shopping Centre, is an incident

that involved a group of people with a capacity and a plan to act on a specific date at a specific location," Const. Dianne Woodworth said Wednesday.

"At the time, we were also concerned other people may have been involved in the conspiracy and that is not the case with the Tynes investigation."

She said Stephen Gregory Tynes, 30, was arrested in connection to threats made against two specific people, then charged and later released on strict conditions.

Referring to the threat Tynes allegedly made to his psychiatrist that he wanted to obtain a gun, kill 10 to 20 people and then himself, Woodworth said the "matter is still before the courts."

"The investigation is still ongoing and I cannot speak to the evidence," she said.



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Performers Mutiny (Krista Hill), left, and Raina (Stephanie Brown) come together underwater at the Aquatron in Halifax. DARREN PITTMAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

'A really magical experience'

EDUTAINMENT

Halifax Mermaids is making a splash with children

Tiny bubbles float to the surface of a tank as Stephanie Brown blows an underwater kiss, her red hair rippling in the water like seaweed as she flips her metallic yellow and orange tail and swims away.

Brown is the co-founder of Halifax Mermaids, a company that provides educational and entertainment experiences

with mermaid performers across the Maritimes.

Brown, also known as Raina the Mermaid, has a background in child and youth development and a bachelor of education. She said her company is cashing in on the mermaid trend while teaching children about the environment.

"We work on the assumption that children learn the best through play, so we create these play environments where they get to utilize their imagination and also learn something about the environment and the ocean," said Brown during a recent in-costume interview at the Aquatron Laboratory tank, a research facility at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

"We try to combine the entertainment aspect of seeing a mermaid, seeing them swim in the beautiful costumes, but also learning about the ocean and empowering people towards change."

Brown said the roughly five mermaids she employs teach



Lily Eddington, 12, gets an underwater greeting from Raina.
DARREN PITTMAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

children about everything from microplastic pollution and tidal pool creatures to the ocean food chain and the importance of recycling.

The mermaids wear realistic tails and shell hairpieces at a range of events, from birthday parties to sandcastle festivals

and workshops at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in Halifax.

Halifax Mermaids, which is a division of Canadian Mermaids Inc., recently won a \$10,000 small business grant in a contest that was run by ADP Canada Co. to expand their

We work on the assumption that children learn the best through play, so we create these play environments where they get to utilize their imagination.

Stephanie Brown, co-founder

fast-growing, year-old business, and it couldn't have come at a better time, said company co-owner Sean Norman.

Norman said they are having a difficult time keeping up with demand, and the extra funding will allow them to hire more mermaids and book more events.

"We plan on getting a mobile tank to travel across Canada," said Norman. "It's been an unbelievable year. ... We couldn't have anticipated how much it was going to take off."

Brown said she started working independently as a mermaid in 2007 as a way to combine her education in child and youth development and her love for the imaginary sea nymphs.

Brown, who struggles from chronic illness and pain, said her new career helps motivate her to keep in shape and manage her ailment.

She said she had a difficult childhood and benefited from programs like Make-A-Wish, so she's paying it forward by visiting sick children in hospitals.

"It's really wonderful to see how much they light up," said Brown, adding that she uses a wheelchair during hospital visits since walking around in a mermaid tail is impossible.

"We just visited a little girl who is finally out of the hospital after a few months and she lives on the ocean, so I swam up to her dock and it was just a really magical experience."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

Stephanie Brown's \$3,000 mermaid tail is made with medical grade silicone and fitted with a mono-fin, which free divers and Olympians use to train for the dolphin kick, she said.

SAFETY

Mould delays more students' first day



Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

A second Halifax-area school will remain closed for a few extra days due to mould removal.

Classes will be delayed until next week for Tantallon Junior Elementary students, Halifax regional school board announced Wednesday afternoon.

Instead, they'll start the school year next Tuesday, the same as Brookside Junior High students,

who also found out this week that mould is being removed from their building.

All other elementary and junior high school students return to classes Thursday as scheduled, while high school students started Wednesday.

"We've had a company in there working since Aug. 24," school board spokesman Doug Hadley said Wednesday of when staff returning from summer break initially found mould on the first floor of Tantallon Junior Elementary.

They discovered mould on "doors, ceiling tiles, furniture and a number of books and learning materials," according to Tantallon Senior Elementary is set to open to students Thursday as scheduled, and Doug Hadley said there's "no concerns at this time" that mould will delay school starting for any other schools across Halifax Regional Municipality.

LOWER SACKVILLE

School sees months of property damage

RCMP are investigating after a rash of property damage at a school in Lower Sackville.

École Du Grand Portage has been the target of damage for the last several months, according to a release from the Halifax District RCMP.

Graffiti was spray-painted on the brick walls, glass bottles were broken on school grounds, and garbage bins were lit on fire, RCMP said.

Police patrols will be increased in the school area but RCMP are asking residents to report any suspicious activity they see.

Anyone who can identify the suspects or has information on these crimes is asked to call the Halifax RCMP at 902-244-7208 or Crime Stoppers.

METRO

IN BRIEF

Women walking on Halifax street sexually assaulted

Police are investigating a sexual assault where two women were touched inappropriately by a man walking by them on a Halifax street.

Halifax Regional Police said that the two victims were walking along the 1000 block of Lucknow Street around 11:15 p.m. Tuesday when the suspect "reached out and touched them in a sexual manner over their clothing." The suspect is described as a white man, between the ages of 25 and 32, five feet six inches tall. METRO

Man facing five charges in afternoon stabbing

A 53-year-old man is facing five charges for allegedly stabbing a 64-year-old man late Tuesday afternoon in Dartmouth.

Raymond Beals was scheduled to appear in Dartmouth provincial court Wednesday morning to answer to two counts of uttering threats, along with one count each of assault with a weapon, assault causing bodily harm and possessing a weapon for a dangerous purpose, Halifax Regional Police said in a news release. METRO

The lawyer representing a man accused of killing a fellow Dalhousie University student last month says the alleged scene of the murder has been compromised.

Eugene Tan said he went last Sunday to look at William Sandeson's apartment where police allege the 22-year-old killed fellow 22-year-old student Taylor Samson.

But when Tan arrived, he found the Henry Street apartment had been renovated.

"It had been painted over, parts of the floor replaced, drywall put in place," he said after a short court appearance Wednesday.

"There's essentially nothing we can gain from an independent examination."

Tan said he's been given little disclosure about what police found at the scene, and he's hoping they will hand over their forensic evidence, along with any videos

COURT DATE

William Sandeson will be back in court on Sept. 24.



William Sandeson, left, was charged with first-degree murder four days after Taylor Samson, a physics student at Dalhousie University, was reported missing last month. Samson's remains have yet to be found. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alleged murder scene 'painted over': Lawyer

COURT

Defence claims nothing to gain from further examination

Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax



22-year-old Murder victim
Taylor Samson FACEBOOK

or photos they may have of the scene.

"Our ability to commission an independent report has been severely compromised," he said.

He wonders why police have not secured the scene to preserve any evidence.

"Even if it had been cleaned up to a certain degree, I can understand that," he said.

"The fact is it's been renovated, not just cleaned up."

Tan said, to his knowledge, the apartment is still being renovated and there are no new tenants living there yet.

Tan appeared on Sandeson's behalf in Halifax provincial court on Wednesday.

A date was to be set for a pre-trial hearing, but Tan said he had not received sufficient disclosure from the Crown, and that there are problems with what he has received.

"They certainly don't make out the allegations so far," he said.

Tan said his client will

REACTION

Police defend integrity of murder investigation

Halifax Regional Police are defending the integrity of their investigation after comments made by William Sandeson's lawyer following a court appearance Wednesday morning.

Spokesperson Theresa Rath said Wednesday afternoon police can't hold a scene after they're finished searching it, and it's not something they do in these cases.

"We do not have any authority to hold it for anyone else, nor do we have any authority to stay there if we are done searching it, because we would be compromising the rights of the person whose property it is," she said.

Rath also said police were surprised that Sandeson's lawyer called into question the relevancy of evidence found during their search of properties owned by Sandeson's family in Lower Truro.

"We have already said publicly that we have found items of interest on that property, and based on our preliminary analysis, we believe they may be connected to the homicide," she said.

"That will actually be presented as evidence before the courts."

ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

be pleading not guilty, and plans to apply for bail soon, though he said it's "probably unlikely" it will be granted.

He said he expects police to have found nothing "relevant" during their search of Sandeson's family's property in Lower Truro.

"He would not involve his family, even if these allegations were true," he said.

"The gentleman that you've read about is the gentleman I've known for years: a hard-working guy from a rural family, kept many jobs, and was a member of a very close-knit family," Tan said he'd coached Sandeson, and he's known the family for years.

Tan's biography on his law office's web page says he coached men's volleyball at Dalhousie, where, according to Sandeson's LinkedIn page, the Dalhousie student was working as a statistician.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Eugene Tan, lawyer for William Sandeson

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dalhousie 'unaware' of broader threat

SECURITY

University issues update after alleged shooting plot



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Halifax

The school of a former medical student who allegedly threatened to kill up to 20 people "is unaware of any threat to the broader Dalhousie community," according to one spokesman.

In an email exchange with Dalhousie spokesman Brian Leadbetter, Metro Halifax asked why the entire student body wasn't notified of this potential threat when the university knew it.

The question came a day after a search warrant filed at the Halifax provincial court alleged that Stephen Gregory Tynes, 30, met with a psychiatrist Aug. 20 and told the doctor he wanted to find a gun and kill 10 to 20 people, then himself.

"Dalhousie is unaware of any threat to the broader Dalhousie community," Leadbetter wrote Wednesday afternoon. "Because of recent media attention, we are now communicating the issue more broadly to allay any concerns."

The court documents allege police searched Tynes' residence on Tower Road and seized 1,834 rounds of ammunition for rifles, a Russian SKS rifle, a Henry Golden Boy .22-calibre rifle, a banana clip for a rifle, a baggie with three spring clips and bore cleaner, two ammunition boxes, a firearms acquisition card and a gun club card.

Metro Halifax also asked Leadbetter when medical students were notified of Tynes' threats.

Tynes had allegedly told the doctor he was going to be expelled from school and wanted to stab an associate dean, as well as her daughter, who is a classmate of the accused, documents say.

He subsequently faces two counts of uttering threats to cause death or bodily harm and one count of engaging in

RESTRICTED

Earlier on Wednesday, the university issued a statement reiterating the restricted access to the medical school buildings, which are the Sir Charles Tupper Building and the Clinical Research Centre, that have been in place since Aug. 26 — the day after Tynes was released on bail.

According to the statement, campus security is collaborating with Halifax police "to have a strong security plan in place to ensure the continued safety of our campus community."

threatening conduct directed at a person or any member of their family.

"Initial information was provided to some students on August 20, and to incoming and returning students on August 24. Regular updates have been provided since that time," Leadbetter wrote Wednesday.



Dalhousie University security and Halifax Regional Police were posted to the entrance of the Sir Charles Tupper building again on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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HALIFAX
TRANSIT



Province rolls out education changes

GUIDELINES

Homework now assigned to all grades

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

New homework guidelines mean students from primary to Grade 12 will have better "consistency" across Nova Scotia, says the provincial education minister.

Starting this fall, students in the earliest grades from primary to Grade 3 will receive homework alongside older children, a move that does away with the previous ban on homework for P-3 grades.

"(It's) consistency so that all students in all schools ... are following the same homework policy," Karen Casey, education minister, told reporters at Burton Ettinger School Wednesday.

"We are asking teachers to use their best professional judgment in what that is."

Casey said P-3 homework



Teachers at Burton Ettinger School look over some new curriculum Wednesday to gain a better understanding of Nova Scotia's new Action Plan for P-3 students. JEFF HARPER/METRO

will likely be books children can read with their parents or math problems introduced in class that won't be a huge time commitment but help "bridge the gap between school and home."

The new homework guidelines came out of the department's Action Plan for

It's practising and reinforcing skills that students have already learned.

Education Minister
Karen Casey

Education that included consultation with teachers and a survey with 7,000 responses, Casey said.

In previous years, Casey said there were different homework guidelines at a provincial and school board level that led to confusion about what teachers could assign.

Now, Casey said homework should be material the students can do themselves and not need help from their parents to complete.

"It's practising and reinforcing skills that students have already learned," Casey said.

Teachers pointed out getting work done at home is a

+ ACTION PLAN

Other changes from the plan include a new curriculum for P-3 students with a stronger focus on math and literacy, hands-on learning to develop technology skills, math mentors, and workplace training to graduating students like WHMIS and labour relations.

challenge for some students, Casey said, so children won't be penalized for unfinished work and it won't count towards their grades.

"It sets up the expectation that I would have for my students and creates something consistent that I can communicate with the parents," said Michael MacDonald, vice-principal of Burton Ettinger School.

Parents said they often don't know what's going on in the classroom, Casey said, so another change includes more communication coming home from teachers on a daily or weekly basis.

SURVEY

Students swayed by career plans

A survey suggests Grade 12 students in the Maritimes base their decisions on which university to attend on future career plans.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission found career was the most

important reason behind their school choice for seven in 10 students.

The commission says that is three times the number of those who cite learning as their main motivation.

Commission CEO Mireille

Duguay says before leaving high school, six in 10 students are already planning to pursue a second degree after their first and the majority expect to be able to find a job related to their university program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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DOUGLAS KEATING

Police seek public's help in murder case

A decade and a half after 38-year-old Douglas Keating died of what was believed to be blunt force trauma, investigators are still trying to find out who murdered him and dumped his body near a Halifax water tower.

Halifax Regional Police issued a news release Wednesday, the 15th anniversary of Keating's death, to remind anyone with information on this major unsolved crimes case to call them at 902-490-5016 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.

Two pedestrians found Keating's body by the water tower behind 299 Main Avenue in the Fairview area of Halifax at about 10:50 a.m. on Sept. 2, 2000, according to police.

"The investigation revealed that Mr. Keating had been as-

REWARD

The Nova Scotia Department of Justice Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes Program offers up to \$150,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for Keating's murder.

saulted and died of blunt force trauma," the police news release said. "It is believed that Mr. Keating was assaulted elsewhere and his body was moved to the site where he was later found."

He was last seen alive the previous night in the Fairview neighbourhood, police said.

METRO

TRAVEL

More Americans using ferry service

The company that owns a money-losing ferry between Nova Scotia with Maine says it's disappointed fewer Canadians are using the service, but is pleased more Americans are coming to the province.

Mark Amundsen of Nova Star Cruises says the decline in Canadians travelling to the U.S. has affected overall numbers, but the number of Americans travelling to Nova Scotia in the summer

22%

There was a 22 per cent drop in the number of passengers last month.

months is up six per cent. Nova Star Cruises says the biggest decline was in August of this year, when passenger numbers dropped by 22 per cent to 15,974.

As well, the number of Canadians travelling to Maine dropped by 40 per cent compared to the three-month figures for last year.

The company is blaming the weak Canadian dollar for the sharp fall. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fuel shortage review launched by province

GASOLINE

Third-party inquiry will focus on supply management



**Zane
Woodford**
Metro | Halifax

The provincial government is launching an independent review into Nova Scotia's fuel supply management system after this week's gas shortage.

"We're not happy, nor satisfied with the reaction of industry to this event," said municipal affairs minister Zach Churchill at a news conference Wednesday afternoon.

Churchill said he's in the process of looking for someone to lead the review, and hopes to name that person within the next week.

"My goal is to have someone outside of government — an independent third party — do this for us, someone who has expertise on public safety and supply management," he said.

Churchill said that person would have three main tasks within the review: examining the province's supply management system to make sure shortages don't happen; determining how the industry can better communicate supply management issues with



Imperial Oil issued a release Wednesday stating fuel supplies had returned to normal. The company took full responsibility for the situation. JEFF HARPER/METRO

government and the public; and making sure that first responders can do their jobs even if there's a shortage.

Though there were no emergency calls missed during the shortage, Churchill said response times were affected when emergency vehicles had to travel further than usual to gas up.

"I think we got lucky this time around," he said.

"But we need to make sure that next time this happens, if it happens again, that we are given ample notification time so that we can adequately prepare to serve the public."

For its part, Imperial Oil sent

out a release Wednesday afternoon saying fuel supplies were back to normal, taking responsibility for the shortage.

"Despite our best efforts to take the necessary steps to address the delay of cargo, local fuel demand temporarily exceeded supply," the release says.

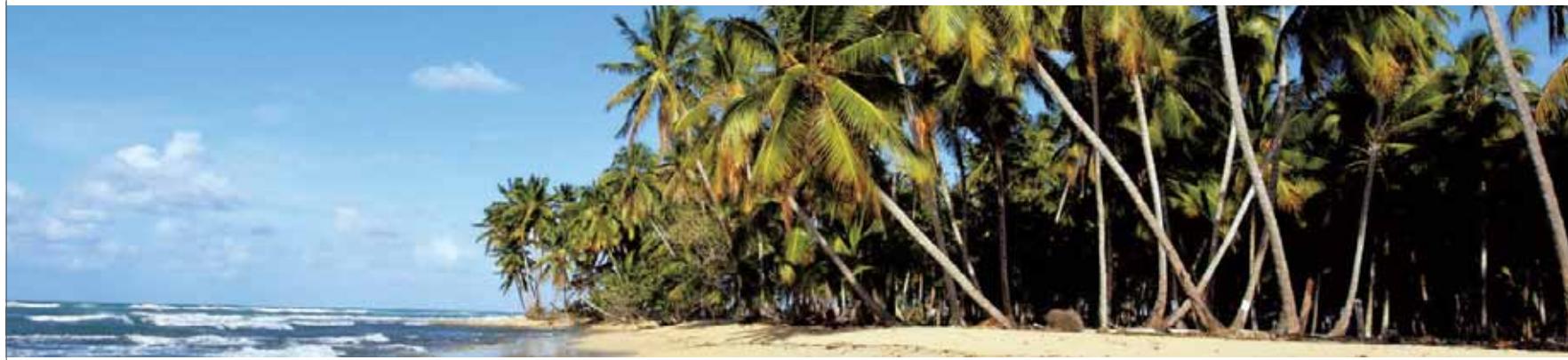
"We take responsibility for the shortfall and we will systematically use our internal processes to learn from the event."

Imperial blames the shortage on longer than expected "quality testing, treating and processing" of shipments coming in to Halifax, and says it did not "reject any cargoes" during the shortage.



Zach Churchill has been vocal in his displeasure of the company's response to the shortage. ZANE WOODFORD/METRO

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NEW BRUNSWICK

Drug units offer aid for allergic reactions

A nurse practitioner hopes to prevent needless deaths from severe allergic reactions by installing publicly accessible auto injectors of epinephrine in prominent locations in Sussex, N.B.

Kelly Dunfield, 51, and her son Robert Dunfield, a 22-year-old medical student, have already arranged for the installation of 30 cabinets with two auto injectors of the medicine — one for a child and one for an adult — in 24 locations ranging from golf courses to fire stations.

She says the program was inspired by the increasing use of publicly accessible defibrillators, which have saved the lives of people who suffer sudden heart attacks.

Dunfield also wants to help prevent deaths by anaphylaxis like the one that took the life of 14-year-old Caroline Lorette, who died last year in Rothesay, N.B., from a reaction to a dairy product.

The funding for the cabinets was provided by a local foundation, while the Allerject units in the pilot project were provided by Sanofi. Sites that take the units sign agreements to resupply the medicine when it expires.

"We would like to see these spread across the country the way the automated external defibrillators have," Dunfield said in a telephone interview.

The boxes include instructions on how to use the auto injectors, she added.

High school teacher Shauna Betts, who lives in Sussex, said educators are pleased to have the brightly coloured boxes in their school.

Some students with severe allergies may forget their auto injectors at home or may not purchase an injector due to financial constraints, she said.

"Now everybody will know where it is. In the past you had to go to the (school) office and see if someone has one," she said in a telephone interview.

Dunfield said nobody in the community of 35,000 has had to use one of the units so far.

A mall in Hamilton launched a pilot project last year to help make sure epinephrine auto injectors are readily available. The project at the Jackson Square Mall was inspired by the death of a 12-year-old girl who died from an allergic reaction last year at a mall in nearby Burlington, Ont., after eating an ice cream cone.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ELECTION 2015

Men support right-wing parties, while women veer left



Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

With three federal parties neck and neck and neck, this is a historically close three-way election, and historic political fissures along gender lines could make a crucial difference.

Metro talked with several political experts about how gender politics are playing out in this election and all said there has long been a gender gap in Canadian politics where men, more than women, support parties on the right and women support those on the left, and that's been playing out in the polls so far.

Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, a professor of Canadian politics at Queen's University said she's noticed politicians — especially Liberals and New Democrats — have been working especially hard in this election to win women's votes, and highlight women's issues.

That includes the NDP's pledge to end violence against women and their national child care plan, and the Liberals' focus on nominating female candidates, and pro-choice can-

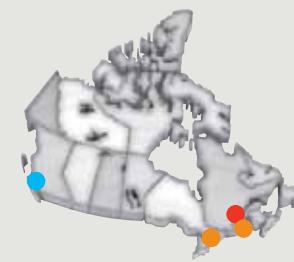
Gender gap playing out



Justin Trudeau takes a photograph with a supporter Wednesday in Trois-Rivieres, Que. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY



- Stephen Harper will be in Surrey, B.C.

- Justin Trudeau will be in Montreal and Brossard, Que.

- Tom Mulcair will be in Montreal and Toronto.

- Elizabeth May will be in Quebec.

candidates, and agreement to participate in debate on women's issues.

"They're battling for the centre and the left, and this is where a greater proportion of women lie in terms of poli-

tical orientation, compared to men," she said.

Chris Cochrane, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, said that battle for the centre left will likely determine the outcome

of the election.

While the parties have near-equal support in the polls, the Conservative party is the second choice of "virtually no one," which leaves the party little opportunity for growth, he said.

The same is not true of Liberal and NDP supporters.

"This is what's making it such an interesting election for everybody — we really don't know how these people are going to vote, because a lot of Liberal voters have the NDP in the back of their minds, and vice-versa for NDP voters. It could swing either way at the end of the election and quite easily unseat the Conservatives," Cochrane said.

Women will likely be a big

part of that swing.

In the 2011 election, the Conservatives won an estimated 35 per cent of women's votes, plus 45 per cent of men's. No party, with the exception of the NDP in some polls, is polling as strongly among female decided voters today, as the Conservatives' 2011 win.

But now that the incumbent party's support is low, its large gender gap is a bigger problem, and appears to be worsening, said Nelson Wiseman, director of the Canadian Studies Program at the University of Toronto.

"If the Conservatives lose, in a large measure, it will be because they lost a lot of the women's vote since last time," he said.

VANCOUVER

Homebuyer short — with \$1M



Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Kate Whyte found out the hard way that even a million bucks can't always buy a decent home in Metro Vancouver's insane real estate market, where home sales soared to nearly 30 per cent above the 10-year average this summer, according to Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver data released Wednesday.

Whyte, a 48-year-old home-maker who works part time in the film industry, and her husband were looking to downsize to a smaller house in their North Vancouver community after two of their three children left for university. They sold their five-bedroom house in May for \$1.3 million, figuring they'd have no problem

finding a smaller place in the area based on numerous listings in previous months.

But then the market "went absolutely crazy," Whyte said Wednesday, telling her story as a cautionary tale of what can go wrong in a seemingly unstoppable real estate market.

Every house they looked at suddenly jumped in price, with million-dollar homes needing extensive renovations to the tune of a few hundred thousand dollars.

"We priced ourselves right out of our neighbourhood," Whyte said. "I was in tears. I was ready to go down to the street and say, 'Honk if you have a house I can buy.'"

As a supporter of the #DontHave1Million campaign, made up of young professionals pressuring the government to tackle the housing affordability problem in a city where



Kate Whyte and her family sold their house for \$1.3 million hoping to downsize, but couldn't find anything. CONTRIBUTED

the average house price is over a million bucks, she even made a tongue-in-cheek sign reading, "Homeless, have \$1 million dollars, can't find a home to buy."

"For me, it is not even laughable, it's just ridiculous," she said.

Whyte recognizes her family

is in a better position than many. They did everything they were supposed to, climbing the real estate ladder over the past 15 years with a small condo then a larger one before stretching to buy their house seven years ago.

"I don't want anyone to

feel sorry for me, what I want people to understand is the ridiculousness of this," she said.

She doesn't know how families are supposed to get ahead when they're competing with foreign investors and Baby Boomers with cash in hand (she says she was outbid by both groups on separate houses this summer).

"Realtors are making a crap load of money, investors are making a crap load of money, and we've got families just falling through the floorboards."

With their move out date approaching on Saturday, her family wound up buying a house in August for just over \$1 million. It's much smaller, on an odd lot, is leaking and needs extensive renos, she said.

"Nobody wanted it because it's a real eyesore," she said. "When I tell people what I have to fix, their jaws drop."

Terror plotter disrupts court

TORONTO

Tunisian flies into a rage over testimony of mental illness

A man convicted of terrorism in a plot to derail a passenger train spat at lawyers and hurled a cup of water across a Toronto courtroom Wednesday after a psychiatrist testified that the man likely suffers from schizophrenia.

Chiheb Esseghaier vehemently expressed his disagreement with the diagnosis of Dr. Philip Klassen, thumping his chest and waving his hands in the air as he said the psychiatrist was being untruthful.

"You are lying," Esseghaier told Klassen. "Which delusion, which schizophrenia and which mental illness?"

Chiheb Esseghaier

Klassen told the court Esseghaier suffers from a mental disorder, but — unlike the first expert who examined the man — said the Tunisian national was still fit to be sentenced for his crimes.

Esseghaier and his co-accused, Raed Jaser, were found guilty in March of a terror-related conspiracy to commit murder and six other terror-related charges between them. Their sentencing hearing is currently under way.

During their last court session in July, the Toronto judge presiding over the case ordered a second mental health assessment for Esseghaier after concluding that an earlier one had "serious flaws."

In that first assessment, Dr. Lisa Ramshaw said she believed Esseghaier was unable to participate in his sentencing hearing because he is likely schizophrenic.



An artist's sketch shows Chiheb Esseghaier, left, and Raed Jaser in Justice Michael Code's courtroom in Toronto in March. ALEXANDRA NEWBOULD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Klassen testified that while his diagnosis was similar to Ramshaw's in many respects,

he still believed Esseghaier was legally fit to be sentenced.

"I would agree with Dr. Ram-

shaw that this gentleman suffers from a mental illness, in my opinion the best fit diag-

nostically would be schizophrenia," Klassen told the court. "I am not persuaded that he is not fit."

Klassen said that Esseghaier was aware of the nature of his court proceedings, understood their consequences and was able to communicate with the court in his trial.

Klassen repeatedly noted, however, that his assessment had to be conducted without interviewing Esseghaier because the man refused to meet with him. Klassen based his assessment on court documents, interview transcripts and Esseghaier's previous mental health assessment.

Esseghaier has said in court before that he believes he will die and his soul would be taken up to heaven on Dec. 25, 2014. Because that has not yet happened, he said he doesn't believe it is currently September 2015.

Justice Michael Code has previously said there was not "a scintilla of evidence" from the pretrial and trial record to suggest Esseghaier was unfit to stand trial.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AIR CANADA

Tensions rising in Europe

HUNGARY

Migrants face pushback as right-wing protests flare

Hundreds of frustrated migrants demanding passage to Germany jostled with riot police beside Budapest's main international train station Wednesday as Hungary spent a second day trying to keep thousands of asylum seekers from spilling deeper into Europe.

Scores of officers pushed back the crowd, which shouted in Arabic and English to be permitted to march around the Keleti train station, which has become the latest focal point for European tensions over an unrelenting flow of migrants from the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

Passions also flared on Hungary's border with Serbia as right-wing nationalist protesters marched to the location where migrants use a train track to walk into the country. Police formed protective circles around frightened migrants as the dem-



Migrants gather outside the closed Eastern Railway Station in Budapest, Hungary, Wednesday, after they were not allowed to board trains bound for Germany. ZOLTAN MATHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

onstrators from the hard-line Jobbik party screamed abuse at them.

The 28-nation European Union has been at odds for months on how to deal with the influx of more than 332,000 migrants this year. Such front-

line nations as Greece, Italy and Hungary have pleaded for more help, while Germany, which is expecting to receive an EU-leading 800,000 asylum seekers this year, has appealed for EU partners to bear more of the load.

"We have to reinstate law

and order at the borders of the European Union, including the border with Serbia," Hungarian government spokesman Zoltan Kovacs said. "Without re-establishing law and order, it will be impossible to handle the influx of migrants."

He said Hungary's prime minister, Viktor Orbán, will take a "clear and obvious message" to a meeting Thursday with EU chiefs in Brussels about migrants.

On Hungary's border with Serbia, some 300 extremists led by Jobbik party leaders waved Hungarian and party flags as they marched to the border crossing and shouted at the frightened migrants — many of whom had just completed a daylong hike along the rail line — to go back where they came from.

Elsewhere on the migrants' long route into Europe, 13 people died when two small boats ferrying them from Turkey to the Greek island of Kos capsized. Turkish media said 12 drowned, including a woman and three children, while another person died later in a hospital.

The Greek coast guard also recovered the body of a man south of the island of Kalolimnos. It wasn't clear whether that body was connected to the capsized Turkish boats about 22 kilometers (14 miles) to the northeast.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCIENCE

Earth has 3 trillion trees: Study

More than three trillion trees now grow on Earth, seven times more than scientists previously thought. But it's also trillions fewer than there used to be, a new study concludes.

A United Nations-affiliated youth group had a goal of planting one billion trees and Yale forestry researcher Thomas Crowther was asked if planting that many trees would do anything to help combat human-made climate change. Trees capture and store heat-trapping carbon dioxide.

Crowther said first he had to figure out how many trees are on Earth and that number was far more than anyone expected: 3.04 trillion trees, according to a study published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

The previous estimate was 400 billion trees and that rough count was based on satellite images peering down from space. Crowther and colleagues used 429,775 ground-based measurements along with satellite measurements and computer models to get a more accurate figure.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THAILAND

Suspect denies link to bombing: Police

Thai police said Wednesday a prime suspect in Bangkok's deadly bombing has admitted to being near the shrine where the attack took place, but denied placing the bomb.

Thai authorities said the suspect's fingerprints also matched those on a bottle of bomb-making material found in an apartment that was raided this past weekend.

Deputy National Police Chief Chakthip Chaijinda was asked

by reporters if the man, whose name and nationality have not been released, had confessed to involvement in the Aug. 17 blast at Erawan Shrine that killed 20 people and injured more than 120, or another explosion the following day near a busy river pier that caused no casualties.

"It is in the nature of the suspect to deny it, but he admits that he was there in the area when it happened," Chakthip said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

France dismisses inquiry into death of Arafat

French magistrates have decided to dismiss an inquiry into the 2004 death of former Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whose widow claims he was poisoned. The assistant prosecutor in Nanterre, Emmanuelle Lepissier, said Tuesday's decision was made "because there was not sufficient evidence that Yasser Arafat was assassinated by polonium (poisoning) or the intervention by another person."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New measurement trims official elevation of North America's tallest peak

North America's tallest mountain just got a shorter name. Now it has a shorter elevation. Denali, the Alaska mountain formerly known as Mount McKinley, now measures 20,310 at its highest point in a new official elevation the U.S. Geological Survey announced Wednesday.

That's 10 feet less than the old measurement of 20,320 feet.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHINA

Citizens shut out of massive parade

China will hold a massive military parade through the heart of its capital, but ordinary folks can't watch.

Authorities obsessed with security and leery of any possible hitches will virtually shut down central Beijing on Thursday, keeping most people out of eyeshot for the parade commemorating the defeat of Japan in the Second World War. Residents who live along the parade route have received notices ordering them to stay off balconies, keep

windows shut, invite no guests and — at some buildings — snap no pictures.

The neighbourhoods around Tiananmen Square, the main venue where President Xi Jinping will inspect the troops with foreign dignitaries, will be under curfew, and Beijing has mobilized 850,000 neighbourhood watchers to report anything even slightly out of the ordinary. City roads will be closed, public bus service suspended and many subway stops sealed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LGBT RIGHTS

Court delays transgender woman's surgery

A transgender woman whose parents went to court in Pennsylvania on Wednesday to block her sex-reassignment surgery said she would rather die on the operating table than continue living with male anatomy.

Christine Kitzler, 48, said during a break in the emergency hearing that the risk factors her father raised — including complications from her HIV and Hepatitis C diagnoses — were worth enduring to have her body match the gender she's identified with since growing up. The surgery, temporarily halted earlier this

week by a judge as he considers a longer stay, would also save her from backsliding into alcohol and drug addiction, Kitzler said.

Her parents, Klaus and Ingrid Kitzler, contend Kitzler is not competent to make an informed decision to have the surgery because of depression and a childhood learning disorder, and want a temporary guardian named.

"I might die from this. But it's worth dying," Kitzler said. "I would rather die than live the way I was and return to my bad addictions, like alcohol, because I can't do it and I won't do it."

Kitzler's surgery had been scheduled for Tuesday, but Judge C. Theodore Fritsch Jr. stopped it after her parents' lawyers filed for an injunction and asked for time for reflection before she goes through with what they called an irreversible surgery. Klaus Kitzler said in court that he would accept her surgery if an independent psychiatrist deemed her fit to make the decision.

"I want to stop it," Klaus Kitzler testified. "I would love to have a son back who goes to church with us on Sunday mornings."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Christine Kitzler, left, and her surgeon, Dr. Christine McGinn. MICHAEL R. SISAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weeknights at 6 Hannah counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day.

SIX@6 LAST NIGHT:

6 Ria Mae Clothes Off
5 Demi Lovato Cool For Summer
4 Hailee Steinfeld Love Myself
3 Selena Gomez ft ASAP Rocky Good For You
2 R.City ft Adam Levine Locked Away
1 The Weeknd Can't Feel My Face

WHERE'S MY CAR? WIN A NEW CAR WEEKNIGHTS 6PM 101.3 THE BOUNCE

101.3 THE BOUNCE

101.3TheBOUNCE.com 101.3thebounce

MCDONALD'S

Canada missing out on all-day breakfast

McDonald's Canada has bad news for those looking to get their Egg McMuffin fix past 11 a.m. Spokeswoman Lisa Hutniak said the company has no plans to offer an all-day breakfast despite the brand's announcement that its American restaurants will introduce the option Oct. 6.

Hutniak said the company is keeping a close eye on the nationwide experiment by the Americans and are always

looking to meet the needs and wants of their customers.

Twitter users were quick to decry the disparity.

"Y'all are monsters," tweeted @MsLolaOh. A user from Scarborough, @60mg-Maija, summarized their reaction in two words: "Thug tears."

Some even made it an election issue, calling on the leaders of all three parties to address the disparity.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Baby monitors lacking basic security: Report

Several of the most popular Internet-connected baby monitors lack basic security features, making them vulnerable to even the most basic hacking attempts, says a new report from a cybersecurity firm.

The research released Wednesday by Boston-based Rapid7 Inc. looked at nine baby monitors made by eight different companies.

The researchers found serious security problems and design flaws in all of the cameras they tested. Some had hidden, unchangeable passwords, often listed in their manuals or online, that could be used to gain access. In addition, some of the devices didn't encrypt their data streams, or some of their web or mobile features.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Laura to shut fewer stores

Laura's Shoppe, which filed for creditor protection last month, is planning to close 15 stores on Sept. 13 — five fewer stores than planned as landlords at several malls have agreed to cut rents and suppliers have offered significant discounts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

	DOLLAR	75.35¢ (-0.28¢)
	TSX	13,545.25 (+63.35)
	OIL	\$46.25 US (+\$4.05)
	GOLD	\$1,133.60 US (-\$6.20)
NATURAL GAS: \$2.648 US (-5.4¢) DOW JONES: 16,351.38 (+293.03)		

Young adults bleeding bank of mom and dad

SAVINGS

Poll discovers marked rise in trend toward living at home

A new poll suggests adult children are draining their parents' retirement nest eggs.

The CIBC survey has found that two-thirds of Canadian parents polled say they're feeling the financial impact of supporting their adult children.

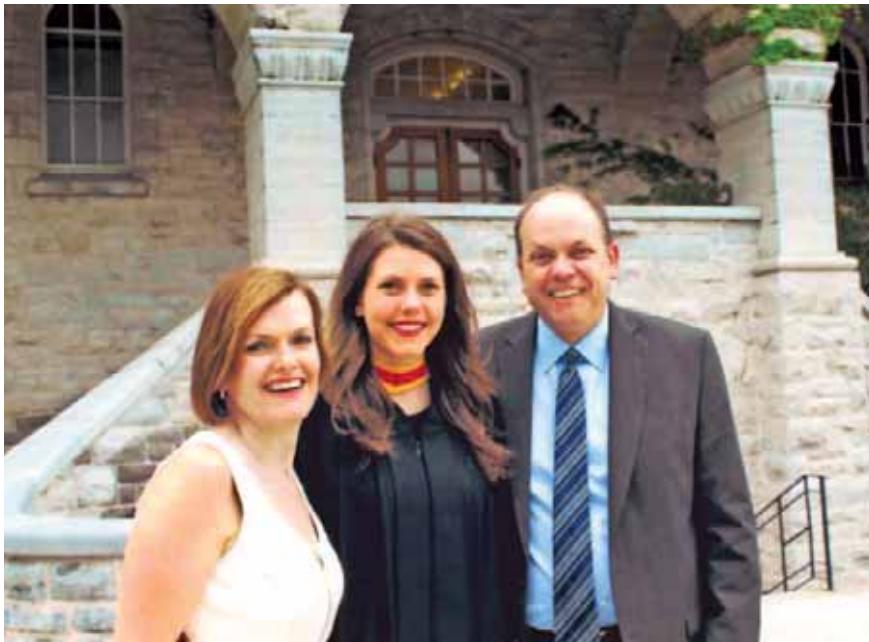
Almost half of them said supporting their adult kids is hampering their ability to save for themselves, while 20 per cent say it has actually delayed their retirement.

"Parents may have the will to help their adult kids but they may not always have the means," said Christina Kramer, executive vice-president of retail and business banking at CIBC.

The most recent data released by Statistics Canada in 2011 showed that 42.3 per cent of adults aged 20-29 lived at their parental home, "either because they never left it or because they returned home after living elsewhere."

In 2006, 42.5 per cent of young adults lived at home, a marked increase from previous decades (32.1 per cent in 1991 and 26.9 per cent in 1981).

Monica Boyd, a sociology professor at the University of Toronto who researches the



Hannah Frazer returned to the nest after graduating to live with her parents, Mary Lou and Donald, in order to save money. COURTESY HANNAH FRAZER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

\$500

One in four parents said they spend more than \$500 a month to cover their adult kids' rent, groceries and other bills. The top two expenses are groceries and other household expenses, and cellphone bills.

reasons young adults live with their parents, said the rising rate is linked to several factors, including school attendance, postponement of marriage ages and family structures.

"Living at home is highly associated with going to school, and unlike the United States, a lot of young adults who are attending schools don't go very far away. They go to school in the area in which they grow up," she said.

An emphasis on family and the prevalence of intergenerational homes among first-generation immigrants means that they have a higher proportion of children living at home, Boyd said.

This includes families from China, India, Southeast Asia and countries in the Mediterranean region, like Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece.

THE CANADIAN PRESS, WITH FILES FROM JILLIAN KESTLER-D'AMOURS

TECHNOLOGY

Apple gets into news market

Apple wants to be a central part of how you consume news.

The iPhone maker has forged partnerships with CNN, National Geographic and others — more than 50 companies so far, representing hundreds of outlets. Apple will launch a News service on iPhones and iPads as part of a free software update this month. That means millions of devices will get the app on the home screen, with no separate download required.

Users get a customized feed of news. Tapping on an item delivers the story in a layout that resembles a print publication — without a lot of clutter found on many websites.

Although Apple has partnerships with just a few dozen outlets, thousands more are available through a feed technology called RSS. These are



The "favorites" section of Apple's new News app is displayed on an iPad. MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

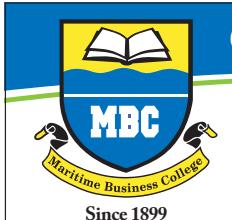
typically top headlines chosen by the outlet and presented in a standard format that vari-

ous apps, such as News, can understand.

News outlets choose which stories go into the service, and Apple plans to leave it to its software to organize them. In tests of a preliminary version of News, negative stories about the company are still appearing prominently, alongside news on competitors.

The service is free, and outlets such as The New York Times that usually charge for online access are offering a selection of their stories for free. There will be ads. That's notable as Apple is permitting ad-blocking technology in its Safari Web browser, but not in apps. The outlets keep all revenue from any ads they sell. For ads Apple sells, the outlets get 70 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Thursday, September 3, 2015

PROCON

Does homework work?

Educators have written endless treatises on homework over the years, but only a handful would get an A in research methods: Few studies compare students who are given homework to those who aren't, control for important factors like parental support or make a distinction between the frequency of homework and the total time spent. The education department's new homework guidelines, which go into effect across Nova Scotia on the first day of school, lift the ban on giving homework to students in Grade 3 and below and emphasize that at-home studies should be about independently practising skills the teacher has taught — ideally taking the pressure off parents to dig up memories of math concepts that may have been buried for 20 years or more.

NO: Homework is unfair and stressful

The powerful anti-homework backlash of recent years has focused on the idea of letting kids be kids. Many parents see excessive homework as a time-suck, a stressor on families, and an extension of the North American workaholic culture— though in other Western countries, kids spend much more time in school. Some researchers even argue that daily homework exacerbates the achievement gap between poor and middle-class kids, because with a chaotic home environment and little parental support, disadvantaged students don't get their work done and fall behind. The scant research that exists shows homework has a comparatively smaller academic effect on younger children than middle- and high-schoolers, and there is no additional benefit for kids who do more than one or two hours per night.

YES: Homework improves academic achievement

A review of 49 studies from 1987-2003 shows a clear positive association between homework and academic success in every subject, though consistency appears more important than the amount of time children spend studying at home. Harris Cooper, a leading Duke University homework researcher, says, "Homework for young children should help them develop good study habits, foster positive attitudes toward school, and communicate ... the idea that learning takes work." Since reading assignments are time-consuming and specific to each child, many teachers delegate them to parents (the quality family time is a bonus). And at-home video lectures are a cornerstone of the trendy "flipped classroom" model, where students are introduced to new concepts at home and work through problems at school.



ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

One-year abortion-forgiveness offer? I'll wait for real change

The Pope has called for "a widening of the church's mercy" when it comes to women who've had abortions.

That should sound like good news to a Trudeau-esque pro-choice Catholic like me.

But instead it adds another level of confusion to what is already an incredibly nuanced church teaching.

I don't doubt Francis' sympathy for women facing the "agonizing and painful decision" to have an abortion. The move might even help some women, because it directs all priests to forgive what is an excommunicable offence.

But the offer only applies during the Holy Year of Mercy, beginning in December. It's not clear what happens to women who miss that window.

"Pope Francis likes to have this merciful tone," Kate McGee told me. "Well, I think it's totally backfired, because now all sorts of people are going, 'What? What are you talking about?' One of my conservative friends was saying, 'Why is the Pope saying this? We already offer up absolution for any sin?'"

McGee is a young psychotherapist with the Jesuit college at the University of Toronto — a self-described feminist Catholic.

Church law already varies; depending on whether you knew abortion was excommunicable, whether you were forced, if you were under 16.

Priests in North America have already agreed to ceremonially absolve women who ask for forgiveness after an abortion. What's new is that Francis is widening that power to other parts of the world, where that power lies with the bishop.

The announcement is about tone, not substance, McGee noted. Abortion remains a grave sin in the church's eyes. "I've never understood why abortion would be excommunicable, but not murder," McGee added. "If you're going to equate them ..."

I cut her off, blurting out, "I didn't realize that!" and thinking: That sounds ridiculous.

The Pope could correct the inconsistency and change law, though "there's no evidence he's going to," McGee said.

This is more like a limited-time Year of Mercy sale.

McGee has been told it's good the church changes slowly. That way, it can bring with it the great swath of cultures woven into it.

I've never been very patient.

Instead of muddying the waters of an already polarizing issue, I wish the Pope would keep focused on the kinds of root causes that could greatly diminish the demand for abortions, especially poverty, and more ironically for a patriarchal organization, sexism.

I'm sure some women will accept the offer of mercy, but I'm holding out for change.

Tories let racists do the anti-terror dirty work

FOOTNOTES

Omar Mouallem



Conservative pundits argue Canada's moderate Muslims must collectively — via Sharia plebiscite, one assumes — denounce jihad, and that they haven't done enough to condemn radicals.

My name and ethnicity being what they are, these sorts of people share this sentiment with me in online conversations or, more awkwardly, at cocktail parties. While I usually argue the majority of Canadian Muslims, Arabs, Persians, etc., do in fact denounce jihad — and that more of them have been terrorized than the "infidels" — we generally agree: More can be done.

But now that's out of the way, let's talk about the Conservatives' racism problem.

Lurk around the Conservative Party's Facebook page

and you spot "top comments" about Sharia law on the party's affordable housing efforts. It's clearer still in the comments of sites like the Rebel Media, if you dare look.

But few things are clearer than a case study from the last two weeks: Two candidates, Ala Buzreba of Calgary and William Moughrabi of Montreal, both had their social-media pasts return to haunt them.

Both are millennials and both Arab. Both made violent comments more than a year ago that played into Middle Eastern stereotypes — appearing either anti-Semitic, misogynist or unhinged.

The difference: One was a hijab-wearing Liberal Party candidate, who's since apologized and resigned; the other, a male Conservative Party candidate who's since apologized but won't resign.

Naturally, when these bozo eruptions are unearthed, they're used by their respective bases to call for resigna-

tion. But the leftist outrage at Moughrabi was tame, focusing more on the double-standard of the party calling for its opponents' resignations following identical mistakes, but not its own.

Now here's a Twitter sampling from Buzreba's detractors:

"Have you joined ISIS yet?"

"Such a cute little terrorist..."

Even before her scandal, Pakistani pundit Tarek Fatah — a defected NDP candidate who's been co-opted by the right, and who was best described on Twitter by a Muslim he slut-shamed as "a victim of internalized racism" — had attacked Buzreba and Justin Trudeau for being soft on ISIS. His evidence? A photo of her with other hijab-wearing supporters (after cropping out one with exposed hair).

Another blogger spread pornographic, photoshopped photos of her being penetrated by Trudeau.

Much of this has to do with

Buzreba's gender. Her headscarf and first name also make her ethnicity more prominent. But the difference is mostly because of something everyone already knows: The right wing provides more comfortable seating for seething racists.

(To those who argue Islam is a religion, not an ethnicity: Islamophobia in Canada disproportionately affects brown people. Let's not pretend.)

Islamophobia isn't exclusively a Conservative problem; some Liberal and NDP-voting atheists will, in a defence of rationalism, cross over into bigotry.

But overt bigotry is primarily a problem on the right. The leaders and politicians on that side of the spectrum must confront it. Instead, they're letting it do their dirty work to support anti-terror bills and crucify their opponents.

Omar Mouallem
(@omar_aok) is based in Edmonton and edits the Yards magazine.

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Minor anxiety over major book

PATRICK DEWITT

Man behind *The Sisters Brothers* felt vulnerable with this followup

BOOKWORM

Sue Carter

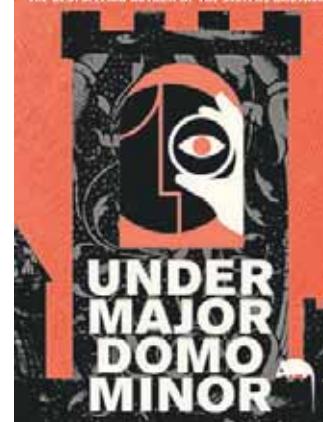
There was a six-month phase during the three years that it took Patrick deWitt to write his new novel, *Undermajordomo Minor*, when he faced daily anxieties over the followup to his award-sweeping black Western comedy, *The Sisters Brothers*. "It was really crippling," he says.

The worries returned later as advance copies of the book, published by House of Anansi Press, began to circulate, and he awaited the first reviews.

"I was feeling very vulnerable at the time. You want the book to be judged on its own, but ultimately I realized I was powerless," he says.

In the end, the Canadian-born writer, who now resides in Portland, Ore., decided that what matters most is his own feelings about the work.

PATRICK DE WITT
THE BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE SISTERS BROTHERS*



"Was this the best I could do at that time? I can't worry about the rest too much."

DeWitt's past worries are understandable. Not only was his 2011 novel a critic and prize-jury favourite, it inspired a rare fanaticism in readers, and was optioned for film by actor John C. Reilly, who will co-star as one of the hitmen-for-hire siblings (the two also worked together on the film *Terri*, for which deWitt wrote the screenplay). Fans of *The Sisters Brothers*

will rejoice at the return of deWitt's wry, funny dialogue and over-the-top, almost slapstick violence.

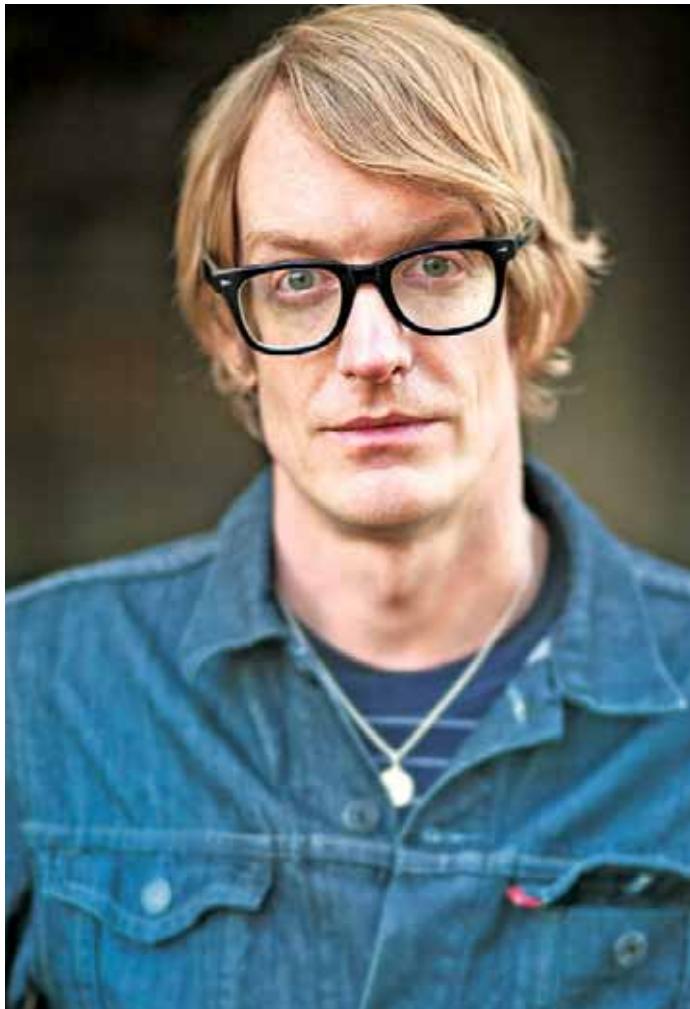
This time, the protagonist is a young, shiftless compulsive liar named Lucy Minor, who takes a position as a servant at the mysterious Castle Von Aux, owned by a baron whose raging bouts of insanity result in one of the most disgustingly visceral scenes involving a rat in recent memory. While Lucy encounters petty thieves, bloodthirsty soldiers with no apparent cause to fight for and a treacherous "Very Large Hole," the story is grounded in his pure love for Klara, a poor beauty from the village.

Prior to *Undermajordomo Minor*, deWitt was working on another manuscript, this time with a contemporary setting, which he abandoned out of boredom. Historical eras, he says, give him the freedom to "exercise baroque, ridiculous language. With an antique setting you can deal with anything difficult."

Unlike some historical authors (if you can technically call deWitt one), he doesn't get caught up in research or worrying about accuracy — *Undermajordomo* has no identifying time or geographic location.

"Authenticity and attention to detail hold very little interest for me," he says.

"It feels like homework, and I hated homework as a kid."



Patrick deWitt's new novel is *Undermajordomo Minor*. DANNY PALMERLEE

LATE-NIGHT SHOWS

Colbert can do the impossible, now he must do the possible

Stephen Colbert is about to turn a corner in his career.

Having split from cheeky Comedy Central, he will now hold court at old-guard CBS. He will inherit the theatre, time slot and series title (though with an added *The*) owned for 22 years by David Letterman.

Little wonder that Colbert's disciples wait anxiously to see what *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* will be like. How beholden will it be to late-night talk-show conventions stretching back six decades? Will it abandon Colbert's signature political edge?

If the early guest lineups offer any clue, he'll offer a rich blend of talk: Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush and Vice-President Joe Biden will appear the first week,

along with entrepreneurs Elon Musk (SpaceX and Tesla Motors) and Travis Kalanick (Uber), plus a showbiz mix.

Colbert, 51, comes to *The Late Show* after establishing himself in the guise of a messianic blowhard who spoofed Bill O'Reilly with maybe a touch of Rush Limbaugh thrown in.

On *The Colbert Report*, he played the host as a jerk, but endearing "someone who wasn't aware that he was a jerk; a well-intentioned, poorly informed, high-status idiot. I wasn't sure that I could get all four of those rotations on the ball. But it worked out."

His was a game of three-dimensional chess, especially with the interviews, which became his favourite part of the show, but they were also

I'm not tired when it's over. I feel great. That's the most startling thing to me.
Stephen Colbert, on interviewing as himself

exhausting.

"Talking with a guest, I had to run everything through the CPU up here" — he points to the computer in his noggin' — "to grind out a version of myself, instantly, while keeping my intention as a satirist evident inside the Trojan horse of my character's role as a pundit who trades on divisiveness." Whew.

Despite (or, more likely, because of) this Rube Goldbergian process, Colbert's interviews were not just funny, but as incisive as anyone's on TV. With his native observations shining through the prism of his on-screen persona, he emerged as a stealth truth-teller. On *The Colbert Report* he proved he could do the impossible. But now ...

"Can I do the POSSIBLE?" he cuts in with a chortle.

He has no doubt that, yes, he can. "So far I've pre-taped at least half-a-dozen interviews as myself," he says. All the while, *The Character* "sat on my shoulder, saying, 'Let ME do it! I can make everything a joke!' And I would go, 'No, no, I want to see what it's like to do it WITHOUT you.'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Stephen Colbert will interview George Clooney, Elon Musk and Kendrick Lamar on his new show. GETTY IMAGES

**GOSSIP IN BRIEF** Deflategate still hasn't blown over; Kermit spotted with a redhead**Tom and Gisele on the rocks**

It hasn't been a great summer for Tom Brady, and not just where his football career is concerned. The embattled quarterback has

reportedly also been facing the ire of wife Gisele Bundchen, who recently consulted a divorce lawyer, according to Us Weekly.

"Tom's become very nasty and irritable and started acting out on her" in the wake

of the Deflategate scandal, a source says. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Oink with the old, in with the new

After Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy ended their relation-

ship less than a month ago, both have new love interests, according to People magazine. The magazine reports that Kermit "has been spotted around town numerous times" with another pig, a pale red-head called Denise. AFP

**TWITTER TIFF****What do you mean, Lena Dunham?**

Lena Dunham has spoken out to question the message behind Justin Bieber's new single What Do You Mean?

The tropical-tinged pop song finds Bieber cooing in the chorus: "What do you mean? When you nod your head yes, but you wanna say no." Earlier this week Dunham tweeted: "Let's do away with pop songs where a girl nods yes when she means no



and vice versa, k?" A day later, the Girls creator posted to Instagram side-by-side photos of herself and a younger Bieber with similar haircuts, and the caption: "How could anyone think I have an issue with Bieber?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HARRY POTTER**A new generation heads to Hogwarts**

Harry Potter's fictional son will be among the nervous British children making the move to big school this week, novelist J.K. Rowling has told fans in an announcement that made a generation of loyal readers feel old.

"I'm in Edinburgh, so could somebody at King's Cross wish James S Potter good luck for me? He's starting at Hogwarts today.

"#BackToHogwarts," Potter creator Rowling told her followers in a tweet on Tuesday. In a second tweet later in the day she said the 11-year-old, who was born in 2004 to Harry and Ginny Potter, had joined Gryffindor, the same house that his father attended at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in Scotland. AFP

She said see you 18ter boi**SPLIT****Chavril announce separation on Instagram**

Chavril is kaput.

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger announced their separation on Lavigne's Instagram account on Wednesday, vowing to remain "the best of friends."

The couple's whirlwind romance began in March 2012, when Kroeger was enlisted to help with the songwriting on Lavigne's self-titled fifth record.

They began dating in July, became engaged in August, and married the following Canada Day at a grand medieval castle in France.

Over the last year, both Canadian rockers have dealt with health issues.

Lavigne, 30, conceded she was dealing with illness in December and clarified in May that she had been diagnosed with Lyme disease.

Kroeger, 40, had to recently cancel Nickelback tour dates in North America and Europe because the Hanna, Alta., singer required surgery for a cyst on his larynx.



Chad Kroeger and Avril Lavigne married in 2013. GETTY IMAGES

Lavigne's Instagram statement, which was accompanied by a photo of the couple dancing, referenced their shared musical accomplishments.

Kroeger co-wrote 10 tracks on Lavigne's last album, produced three and co-produced four. Their duet, Let Me Go, hit No. 12 on the Canadian

chart and also made the Top 100 in the U.S., Australia and Germany.

"It is with heavy heart that Chad and I announce our separation today," wrote the Napanee, Ont., native.

"Through not only the marriage, but the music as well, we've created many unforgettable moments. We are still, and forever will be, the best of friends, and will always care deeply for each other."

"To all our family, friends and fans, thank you sincerely for the support."

It was the second marriage for Lavigne, whose union with Sum 41 rocker Deryck Whibley ended in 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Drape Turkish towels over chairs to jazz up an outdoor space



Developers get to the art of the matter

GIVING BACK

Funding for public projects a requirement for rezoning in some cities

CONDOS TRENDS

Duncan McAllister

Public art enhances the urban experience and enlivens city street-scapes. In many Canadian municipalities, condo developers are required to contribute funding to the public realm as an offset for rezoning considerations.

In the city of Vancouver for example, rezonings greater than 100,000 square feet are required to contribute \$1.81 per square foot to a public art process approved by the city. It's a way for developers to "give back" to the community, in the form of public parks, community centres, swimming pools and public art.

Ottawa

In Ottawa, the Corners on Main is a two-building, midrise condo project at the corner of Main Street and Oblate Avenue. This stretch of Main Street is slated for a complete makeover, planned by the city of Ottawa. Part of the design includes a city-commissioned art installation created by Ottawa artist Stuart Kinmond and will feature a series of geometrically shaped benches and three, six-metre towers. A series of glass images will depict landscapes of the Rideau Canal, the Rideau River and old Ottawa East.

Halifax

As part of an initiative to bring public art to the Halifax and Bedford waterfronts, Nova Scotia's Waterfront Development Corporation has partnered with condo developer Provident Developments to profile works by Maritimes-based artists Darren Byers and Fred Harrison.

Of Sea and Shore is a sculpture cast in bronze and textured with carvings. A stainless steel element represents the sprawling reach of the Bedford Basin.



OTTAWA Top: The Corners on Main is a midrise condo project by Ottawa developer Domicile. Bottom: An art installation by Ottawa artist Stuart Kinmond, part of the redesign of Main Street, will feature a series of geometrically-shaped benches and three, six-metre towers. COURTESY DOMICILE

Standing four metres high, the sculpture will be located in a public outdoor space between the Dockside Condominiums on the Bedford waterfront.

Byers says that the elements come from patterns we see every day: "The texture in the rocks, the patterns in a field of grass, and the foam that forms as the water is stirred and flows."

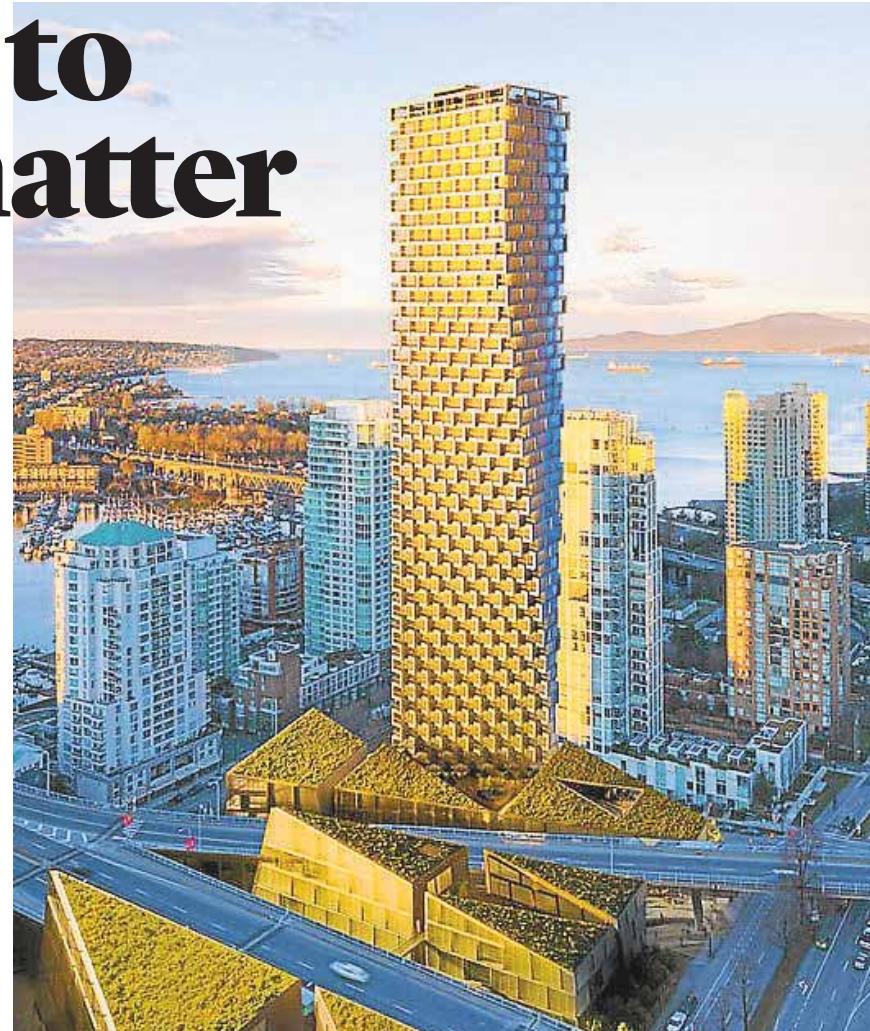
Vancouver

Vancouver developer Westbank Projects has announced a new 59-storey, twisting condominium tower, a prominent landmark at Howe Street and Beach Avenue. Vancouver House will be one of the city's tallest residential towers, slated for completion in 2018.

The project will include one of Vancouver's most innovative works of public art: an installation by renowned local artist Rodney Graham. A giant spinning chandelier will be suspended beneath the Granville Street bridge, the gateway to the city's downtown core. The large kinetic sculpture will take the shape of a giant faux-crystal, 18th-century candelabra.



VANCOUVER Top: Westbank Projects has announced Vancouver House, a 59-storey, twisting condominium tower. Bottom: Part of the project, a giant spinning chandelier by B.C. artist Rodney Graham will be suspended beneath the Granville Street bridge. COURTESY WESTBANK



Style that fits a student's needs

DESIGN CENTRE

Karl Lohnes



Q: I am an adult student renting a small, unfurnished room in a shared apartment for just this school year. This 8' x 11' room must serve as my study, sleep and entertaining area. I'd like to spend less than \$1,000. What can I do?

A: The secret is to not overspend on the essential furnishings you will only need for one year. Investing in some nice bedding, towels and a comfortable mattress should be your goals here. I've scoured the retail shops to find you the most practical and affordable necessities for outfitting your room. They total just under \$500, which will allow you plenty of extras for your mattress, bedding and towels.

Line the inside edges of your bed with cushions in order to create a couch-like support for sitting up when studying. The most inexpensive idea is to buy standard pillows and cover them with fun, decorative pillow cases that can be washed on a regular basis. **Northern Reindeer Standard Pillow Cases, \$20/set of 2, Harmonie Standard Pillows from \$8, Simons.ca**



Purchasing a few clip-on lights will allow you to move your lighting around the room as needed, from the side of your desk to on the rail of the bed. **Tensor Gooseneck Clip-On Desk Light, \$14, Lowes.ca**



Tiny space? Tiny budget? No problem with these budget decor tips



A floating, wall-mounted desk will allow for more floor space and versatility as to where you want to have your desk. These desks are also excellent for creating laptop storage areas in hallways or kitchens in the future. **Prepack Studio Floating Desk, \$190, Lowes.ca**



Whether it be for studying at your desk or lounging with a guest, a padded desk chair is the most comfy option. **Mainstays Midback Chair, \$60, Walmart.ca**

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Your essential daily news



Sidney Crosby is again the top player in EA Sports' NHL 16 video game with a 96 rating

'Just watch us': Chips on their shoulders at SMU

AUS FOOTBALL

Coach Marchese expects 'much better' this Huskies season

 **Kristen Lipscombe**
Metro | Halifax

Perry Marchese has three simple words for those concerned that last season's poor performance could carry through to this year.

"Just watch us," the Saint Mary's Huskies head coach said late Tuesday night, after a long day of Atlantic University Sport training camp, which typically consists of morning and afternoon practices, classroom sessions for players and evaluation meetings for coaches.

"Everybody's got a question. Everybody is asking, 'What's the team going to be like?'" Marchese said. "Come watch; you'll find out."

Last year saw a football program well-known for its winning tradition suffer a winless season of eight games for the first time in its history.

It was a tough blow for a team that has previously won 10 AUS titles in 12 years, along with five appearances at and two wins in the Vanier Cup.

2015

Huskies regular-season schedule

Sept. 11: 7 p.m. vs. Mount Allison Mounties
Sept. 19: 2 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier X-Men
Sept. 26: 2 p.m. vs. Bishop's Gaiters
Oct. 3: 2 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier X-Men
Oct. 9: 7 p.m. vs. Acadia Axemen
Oct. 17: 2 p.m. vs. St. Francis Xavier X-Men
Oct. 24: 2 p.m. at Mount Allison Mounties
Oct. 31: 2 p.m. at Acadia Axemen

awarded annually to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport champions, during that time frame.

But Marchese said that rough patch is "long behind us."

The former Huskies quarterback stepped into the head coach's role in February 2012. "We're much better than last year," Marchese said, adding he's got "competition at every position" unlike previous seasons, despite players such as CIS defensive player of the year Jonathan Langa and reliable receiver Melvin Abankwah moving on to the CFL.

"This is the biggest returning class I've had since I've been



Saint Mary's head coach Perry Marchese in the midst of practice Wednesday afternoon at Huskies Stadium on the Halifax campus. JEFF HARPER/METRO

We've got a high character group of kids here that work extremely hard.

Huskies football head coach Perry Marchese

here," Marchese said.

Those returnees comprise more than 60 of the 90-plus players currently at Huskies camp. The roster has a "strengthened resolve" from veterans pushing to prove

doubters wrong and "lots of fresh eager faces" from the rookies.

They'll get their first chance to show what they're capable of when they kick off against the Acadia Axemen at 2 p.m.

this Saturday at the Wolfville university, in what is the first and only pre-season exhibition game for the Huskies.

Their regular season kicks off at 7 p.m. next Friday with a home game against defending AUS champions the Mount Allison Mounties at Huskies Stadium in Halifax.

"It's a brand new day," Marchese said. "All last season did was make us work harder."

ROUNDUP

News on Rainmen looms

What the heck is happening with the Halifax Rainmen?

Local media and fans of the team, which claimed bankruptcy in early July, are supposed to find out exactly that at a news conference starting at 11 a.m. at the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame at the Scotiabank Centre.

"A group of local community and business leaders will provide an update on their evaluation of Halifax having a team in National Basketball League of Canada for the upcoming season," a media reminder sent out Wednesday said.

Corporate Research Associates CEO and chairman Don Mills, who has previously supported the club on its board of advisers, is listed as the media contact on the latest advisory, which says NBL Canada Dave Magley will also be in attendance at Thursday's announcement.

The future of the Rainmen has been unclear following its financial troubles and a season that ended with the team forfeiting Game 7 of its championship series against the Windsor Express.

Herd set to finish off pre-season vs. Cape Breton

The Halifax Mooseheads face off for the final time in pre-season Thursday night.

The Herd are looking for their first win in exhibition action when the puck drops at 7 p.m. against provincial rivals the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles at the historic Halifax Forum.

The green and red have lost all four pre-season games they've played, 5-4 in a shootout Aug. 15 to Cape Breton, 5-1 to the Moncton Wildcats on Aug. 16, 4-2 to Cape Breton on Aug. 23, and 7-2 to Cape Breton last Saturday. An Aug. 22 home game against the Charlottetown Islanders at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre was cancelled.

Halifax opens the regular season Sept. 11 in Charlottetown. The Mooseheads' home opener is at Scotiabank Sept. 18 versus the Acadie-Bathurst Titan.

Quarterback Borden expects better in 2015 season

Third-year quarterback Scott Borden is the first to admit his team has an entirely different mindset in this training camp.

After a winless 2014, that can only be a positive for the Saint Mary's Huskies.

"I feel like we've matured more, as people and players," the 20-year-old Halifax native said Wednesday afternoon, while taking a water break on the sidelines during an upbeat practice under sunny skies at Huskies Stadium.

With experience wearing maroon and white on his side, along with the ability to overcome challenges that include sitting out with broken forearms early last

"

Every time you step on the field, just give it your all, because you never know when it's going to be your last game.

Huskies QB Scott Borden

season, Borden is a front-runner to start for the Huskies.

Some of his competition for that spot includes Trevor Erdmann, a 23-year-old quarterback from Edmonton who comes to

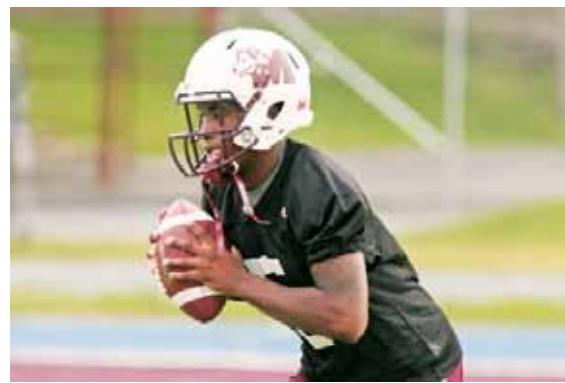
Saint Mary's after five seasons with the Edmonton Huskies of the Canadian Junior Football League.

"It's been a really good camp; guys are flying around," the six-foot-two, 200-pound Erdmann said Wednesday while taking a quick breather. "A lot of intensity."

Borden agreed everyone seems to be "raring to go" for this weekend's pre-season game on the road against the Acadia Axemen.

"We had a good off-season, so we're ready to get out there," the six-foot, 205-pound player said. "We're ready this year."

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO



Third-year quarterback Scott Borden at Wednesday afternoon's practice in Halifax. JEFF HARPER/METRO

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO



Serena Williams returns a shot to Kiki Bertens on Wednesday in New York. MIKE STOBE/GETTY IMAGES

Serena error-prone in her latest victory

U.S. OPEN

33-year-old one step closer to calendar-year Grand Slam

This was, in just about every measurable way, an up-and-down performance by Serena Williams, filled with double-faults — 10 in all — and two dozen other unforced errors.

With her bid for a true Grand Slam at stake, and facing a qualifier ranked only 110th, Williams was far from dominant in the second round of the U.S. Open on Wednesday, before pulling ahead and pulling out a 7-6 (5), 6-3 victory over

Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands. "Today, I was a little tight," Williams said in her on-court interview. "I think it showed."

Sure did.

She got broken early. She double-faulted four times — yes, four — in one game. She didn't manage to earn a break point against the strong-serving Bertens until the 10th game. Williams made 26 of her 34 unforced errors in the first set alone, which she repeatedly was rather close to letting slip away, including down 4-0 in the tiebreaker.

But as the 33-year-old American has demonstrated time and time again during her remarkable career, she can bring out her best when she needs it.

"I know that I can try to

WHO'S NEXT?

Serena Williams' next opponent, Bethanie Mattek-Sands, made it to the third round at Flushing Meadows for the first time in 13 appearances by beating another American, CoCo Vandeweghe, 6-2, 6-1.

make a comeback," Williams said, "or try to make a run for it."

Bertens helped out with some shaky play, which probably wasn't all that surprising given she only once has made it to the third round in 14 career major tournaments.

Williams, in contrast, has

won the past four major titles, a streak that began at last year's U.S. Open, and 21 overall. If she can win five more matches at Flushing Meadows — starting in the third round against Bethanie Mattek-Sands in an all-U.S. matchup Friday — Williams would complete the first calendar-year Grand Slam in tennis since Steffi Graf in 1988.

Also on the line for Williams: A 22nd major singles championship would equal Graf for the most in the Open era, which began in 1968, and second-most in history behind Margaret Court's 24. Plus, Williams is trying to become the first woman since Chris Evert in 1975-78 to win four consecutive U.S. Opens.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raonic, Bouchard advance to third round

Canadians Milos Raonic and Eugenie Bouchard are through to the third round of the U.S. Open.

Raonic advanced after defeating Spain's Fernando Verdasco 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (1) on Wednesday, while Bouchard downed Polona Hercog of Slovenia 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-3.

Raonic, seeded 10th in New

York, needed just 26 minutes to win the first set. But it soon became clear 24-year-old from Thornhill, Ont., who has battled injuries this season, was playing in discomfort.

He received treatment during a medical timeout in the second set and also received massages during some of the changeovers.

"There were sometimes doubts, should I keep going or not," Raonic said. "The worst part was it was sort of getting worse and worse."

"It is what it is. Deal with it and move on."

He was able to fight through the injuries, and, after dropping



Milos Raonic

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

his first set of the tournament in the third, cruised to an easy win in the fourth-set tiebreak.

Raonic will face another Spaniard, 18th-seed Feliciano Lopez, in the third round.

Bouchard, from Westmount, Que., had 14 break-point chances against Hercog, converting seven of them. But Bouchard also saved just four of the nine break points she faced.

Bouchard will face Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova in the third round. THE CANADIAN PRESS

18

Raonic fired 18 aces to Fernando Verdasco's 16.

CRIME

Ex-CFL standout faces murder charge

Former CFL star Lawrence Phillips has been charged with murder in the death of his cellmate at a Central California prison.

Phillips is suspected of killing 37-year-old Damion Soward at Kern Valley State Prison in April. Officials determined Soward was strangled. The Kern County district attorney's office says Phillips, 40, faces a first-degree murder charge.

Phillips was once one of U.S. college football's top players at Nebraska. After a three-year

NFL career, he went north to the CFL.

Phillips ran for 1,022 yards and 13 TDs with Montreal in 2002, helping the Alouettes win the Grey Cup that year. He also appeared in eight games in 2003 with the Calgary Stampeders.

Phillips is serving a sentence of more than 31 years. He was convicted of choking his girlfriend and later of driving his car into three teens after a pickup football game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Canada's Andrew Wiggins defends against Cuba's William Granda on Wednesday. YURI CORTEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

BASKETBALL

Canada bounces back from opening loss

Andrew Wiggins and Nik Stauskas each had 15 points to lead Canada to a 101-59 rout of Cuba on Wednesday at the FIBA Americas men's basketball championship.

A day after losing their tournament opener to Argentina, the Canadians came back with a complete team effort to book a spot in the second round. Canada got a huge contribution from its bench, with Brady Heslip and Dwight Powell scoring 12 and 10

points, respectively, and Aaron Doornkamp pulling down a game-high nine rebounds.

Canada's next game is Thursday against Venezuela.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Votto's three-run homer lifts Reds past Cubs

Joey Votto hit a three-run homer in the ninth inning that was set up by third baseman Kris Bryant's two-out error, lifting the Cincinnati Reds over the Chicago Cubs 7-4 Wednesday.

Bryant hit a two-run homer in the eighth that made it 4-4. The rookie has 22 home runs and 84 RBIs this season.

The home run was Votto's 27th of the season.

J.J. Hoover (7-0) got the win despite allowing Bryant's homer. Aroldis Chapman closed for his 27th save.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Devils defenceman announces retirement

Longtime defenceman Bryce Salvador has announced his retirement after playing 14 NHL seasons.

Salvador played 786 career games for the St. Louis Blues and New Jersey Devils, putting up 110 points while excelling as a shot-blocking, stay-at-home defenceman.

After struggling with an injury that caused his spatial awareness, vision and balance to be off, the 39-year-old Brandon, Man., native made the announcement he was calling it a career.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE Apricot Soy-Glazed Chicken



EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com

@rosereisman
A delicious and easy dish to prepare, made in minutes.

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Serves 4

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 lb boneless chicken breasts
- 1/2 cup apricot jam
- 1/4 cup light soy sauce
- 2 tsp toasted sesame seeds
- 1/3 cup dried apricots
- 3 Tbsp chopped cilantro or parsley

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Spray a baking sheet with vegetable oil.
2. In a heated grill pan, sear the chicken on both sides for about five minutes total. Place

on baking sheet.

3. In a small skillet, add jam and soy sauce. Bring to a boil, then simmer for two minutes just until bubbling. Spoon half over chicken, sprinkle with sesame seeds and bake just until temperature reaches 165 F, about 10 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, add hot water to apricots and microwave on high for 30 seconds. Let sit for two minutes until plump. Drain and slice in half.
5. Serve with remaining sauce, sliced apricots and cilantro.

Nutrition per serving

- Calories 336.5
- Protein 41 g
- Carbohydrates 35 g
- Fibre 0 g
- Total fat 3 g
- Saturated fat 0.6 g
- Cholesterol 98 mg
- Sodium 640 mg

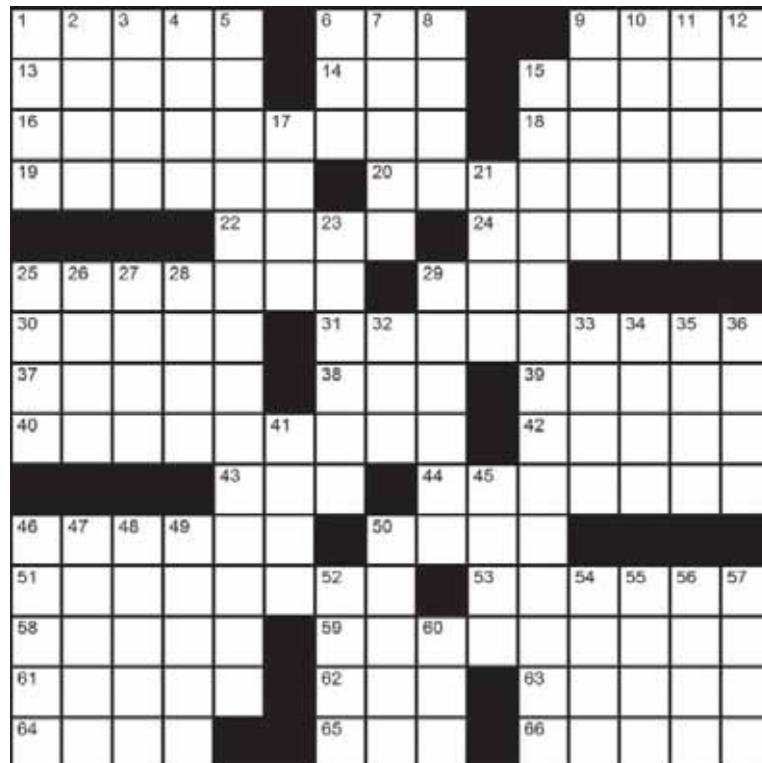
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Dapper shoe coverings
- Abbreviations between the names of competing sports teams
- Halt
- Bound-to-the-land person of ancient Sparta
- "The Simpsons" storekeeper
- Where Tahrir Square is in Africa
- Botanical garden
- Earthenware pots
- Austrian composer Mr. Mahler (b.1860 - d.1911)
- Wheeled casino game
- The __ Bible (John Kennedy Toole novel)
- Snacked
- Gives the class a project
- Fish part
- "Turn Me __" by Loverboy
- Monstrous
- Antelope of Africa
- Dingy directioner
- Ex-Pres.
- Bush's wife
- Jock's 'shot' at the clinic
- Right beam
- Mr. Barrett of early Pink Floyd
- Puck no-go-inner's
- Regular television show
- Fate goddess in Norse mythology
- 1883's history-making volcano of Indonesia
- Prince Island link
- fatuous (Will-o'-the-wisp)
- Defensive
- swarmer: 2 wds.
- Highway-crossing danger
- Laboratory labyrinth learner
- __'to go (Eager)
- Remote scientific facilities, e.g.
- Do some math
- Bridges



DOWN

- Layered hairstyle
- Modern spot of the Inca empire
- Belonging to Calgary's prov.
- Tugboat's sound
- Song by Canadian animated pop duo Prozzak: 2 wds.

- Cistern
- Brush aside
- Wrestling of Japan
- Bargains
- Farmland
- Pontificate
- Did a super-model's work
- KFC founder now

played by Canadian comic Norm Macdonald in commercials: 2 wds.
17. Balanced
21. Portion
23. "Sunday Morning" on CBS anchor Charles
25. Welsh composer Mr. Templeton
26. Unaccompanied
27. Go parasailing
28. "Say It __ So" by Hall & Oates
29. Precede
32. Sought the public's vote
33. Montreal-born humourist Mort
34. __ d'Orsay, in Paris
35. Montreal suburb, Baie-D'_
36. Depletes dinner
41. Procedure, for short
45. Great pitcher Mr. Hershiser
46. Glances over
47. Grain fungus
48. Kept going and going...: 2 wds.
49. "You're still the one __ good night..." (Shania Twain line)
50. Water nymph of ancient Greek mythology
52. Pod vegetable
54. Do a gift-giver's task
55. Magic spell starter...
56. Harness
57. Hideaways
60. Co. cousin

* IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries March 21 - April 20

Find a balance between the parts of your nature that like to feel secure and those parts that like to take a risk. Creatively and romantically this is a great time for you. Don't waste it on indecision or self-doubt.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21

You play favorites but the current cosmic set-up is urging you to be even-handed in your approach to life and people you deal with on a one-to-one basis. Treat everyone with the same courtesy.

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21

Are your plans realistic? If they are you will make great progress. If not, you will be forced to rethink what you are doing.

♋ Cancer June 22 - July 23

Focus on quality rather than quantity. Too often in the past you have scattered your energies in all directions. Now you must concentrate on the two or three things you do really well.

♌ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23

You will do something extra special today, something that gets you noticed. Do it with style and your name will be known by all the right people.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Great changes are possible but you must be honest with yourself. Part of the reason you have not succeeded to the extent that you should have is because you have been unwilling to put a name to your desires.

♎ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You are torn between the future and the past and must find ways to bring them together. The best way is to learn from what has gone wrong before and make sure you don't make the same mistakes again.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Stay true to what you believe in, even if it brings you into conflict with an authority. Just because someone is powerful does not mean they are right. Act on your principles.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

It is a waste of time trying to work out what is going to happen next. Go with the flow and trust that fate will steer you in the right direction — somehow it always does.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You may feel sorry for people who are down on their luck but don't start thinking that you are to blame. The best way to do your bit for others is to take care of those you are closest to. Charity begins at home.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You need to look at life from a more detached point of view. Some of the things you have allowed yourself to get worked up about are simply not worth the bother.

♓ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20

Strive to find a middle way and you will do yourself a favour, especially on the work front where colleagues and employers will respond in kind if you are willing to give ground.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

1			7					
3	8		6	2				
9								1
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